

1 **Regular Meeting**
2 **Minutes for July 18, 2005**

3
4 *A Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia, Bergen County, New*
5 *Jersey, was held this evening in the Borough Hall Annex, commencing at 7:30pm*
6

7 **Council Present:** *Mayor Laurence Cherchi, Councilwoman Dwarica,*
8 *Councilwoman Heveran, Councilman LaBianco, Councilwoman*
9 *Mitrani, Councilman Puzzo, Council President Ryan,*

10
11 **Council Absent:**

12
13 **Also Present:** *Fran Lehmann, Borough Clerk, David Russo, Borough Attorney,*
14 *Borough Administrator, Victoria Miragliotta*
15

16 Mayor Laurence Cherchi called the meeting to order.

17
18 Mayor Laurence Cherchi asked everyone to stand while Council President Ryan led in
19 the Pledge of Allegiance.
20

21 **OPEN MEETING STATEMENT**

22
23 Conditions of the Open Meeting Act have been met by Notice placed on the Bulletin
24 Board at Borough Hall and notices sent to the Official Newspaper.
25

26 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

27
28 **Regular Minutes – June 6, 2005-** Councilwoman Dwarica, made a motion, seconded by
29 Councilman Puzzo to approve the minutes of June 6, 2005. Roll Call Vote:
30 Councilperson Dwarica, Heveran, LaBianco, Mitrani, Puzzo, Ryan voted yes. Minutes
31 approved.
32

33 **Regular Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2005 –** Councilwoman Dwarica, made a motion
34 to approve the minutes of June 13, 2005, seconded by Councilwoman Mitrani. Roll Call
35 Vote: Councilpersons Dwarica, Heveran, LaBianco, Mitrani, Puzzo, Ryan voted yes.
36 Minutes Approved
37

38 **Closed Session – June 13, 2005 –** Councilman Ryan made a motion to approve the
39 closed session minutes of June 13, 2005, seconded by Councilwoman Dwarica. Roll Call
40 Vote: Councilpersons Dwarica, Heveran, LaBianco, Mitrani, Puzzo, Ryan voted yes..
41 Minutes approved.
42
43
44
45
46

47 **COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC**

48
49 Mr. Monaco -352 Highwood Avenue – Spoke about the notice he received regarding his
50 sidewalk. Mayor Cherchi explained that this was part of a report received from the Tax
51 Payers Association and he could receive a copy of the report from the Borough Clerk.

52
53 **REPORTS**

54
55 **Finance, Administration & Personnel** – Councilwoman Mitrani reported that personnel
56 issues are being addressed.

57
58 **Laws & Ordinances** – Nothing to Report

59
60 **Police** – Council President Ryan reported a meeting was held last week and three
61 candidates were interviewed. A more in depth report would be given in Closed Session.

62
63 **Fire** - Councilwoman Heveran reported 26 incidents in June. Councilwoman Heveran
64 also reported on a program to be overseen by Fire Prevention, for free smoke detectors. A
65 discussion was held regarding fire exits in the Annex.

66
67 **Ambulance Corps** - Councilwoman Dwarica gave a report on the number of calls
68 through April. Councilman Puzzo inquired as to when the roof would be repaired at the
69 Ambulance Corps. The Borough Administrator reported that we received a very good bid
70 on the roof and weather permitting it will be done next week. Councilwoman Mitrani
71 asked about the generator. The Borough Administrator reported that she is still working
72 on the generator for the Ambulance Corps.

73
74 **Public Works** - Councilman Ryan reported on the progress of work on Leonia Avenue.
75 The plans for Magnolia Avenue have been delivered to the County for approval. Station
76 Parkway work to begin in the next week. Beechwood Place will be bid in the fall.
77 Highwood will be done next year. Sylvan Park has been rejected for the third time.

78
79 **Real Estate & Insurance** – Nothing to Report

80
81 **Borough Administrator** The Borough Administrator reported on Community
82 Development Applications. The Borough Administrator will research the grid for any
83 applicable streets. She also reported that apparently the Borough has never applied for a
84 Social Services Grant. She would like to apply for a part-time receptionist who would
85 also act as translator. The Borough will put in for the Senior Citizens bus driver salary
86 when the housing money runs out. The handball wall is completed and it looks great. Tax
87 Bills went out on time. The ramp at the Recreation Center is deteriorated; there was a
88 quote in packets for \$18,000 we did allocate money for repairs in Borough Buildings
89 would like to move ahead with this. The quote for Reldyes Avenue came in at \$40,000
90 this is just for the underground water problem, not the paving. Sylvan Park we received
91 the DEP Permits we can move ahead with that project after we re-bid it. Intersection of
92 Fort Lee Road and Broad Avenue the plans were delivered to the County today.

93
94 **Special Bodies of the Borough** no report

95
96 **Mayor** - Mayor Cherchi reported on a meeting he attended regarding the construction of
97 new tunnel to connect New Jersey to New York.

98
99 **RESOLUTIONS**

100 Councilwoman Dwarica made a motion to approve Resolution 05-179 through 05-182,
101 seconded by Councilman Ryan.

102
103 **ROLL CALL** Councilperson Dwarica, Heveran, LaBianco, Mitrani, Ryan, Puzzo, voted
104 yes. Resolutions approved.

105
106 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

107 Lakeview Avenue – Mayor Cherchi explained why he added this to the agenda.
108 Councilman Puzzo, reported that he spoke with Mr. Lugilio and he will be at the meeting
109 of August 15th.

110
111 Glenwood Avenue – Councilwoman Mitrani reported on Correspondence from Job & Job
112 with regard to the use of 4-way stop signs. A discussion was held regarding the use of 4-
113 way stop signs. Councilwoman Mitrani reported that there is a degree of liability with
114 regard to speed humps. Mayor Cherchi asked Chief Ziegler if it would be possible to get
115 a copy of the accidents on Hillside and Glenwood for the past 12 months. Chief Ziegler
116 will supply the information before the next meeting.

117
118 Taxpayers Association Letter The Borough Administrator handed out reports to
119 everyone. Discussion of the reports to be held at the meeting of August 1, 2005.

120
121 **NEW BUSINESS**

122
123 Spring Street, Paving, Speed Humps, Sewers & Boarders, etc. Councilwoman Heveran
124 would like the Council to keep on top of the problems that were brought to the attention
125 of the Council by the residents. The Borough Administrator reported that after
126 researching Spring Street, she found that it used to be in grid for Community
127 Development Funding. It has since been removed from the grid and it will have to go
128 before the Capital Budget Committee. A discussion was held regarding the use of
129 portable speed humps. Mayor Cherchi feels that we should move ahead with the speed
130 humps. Chief Ziegler reported that we might need the approval of the County as the road
131 runs into Fort Lee Road. Councilman Puzzo feels we should meet with all the residents
132 on the street. Not just the resident that came before the Council, everyone on the street
133 needs to be heard before we put down the speed humps. Councilwoman Heveran said
134 what appears to be speeding when you are standing still is not necessarily speeding. Chief
135 Ziegler agreed with Councilwoman Heveran. He explained that if the street is narrow it
136 appears they are going faster. Councilwoman Mitrani would like to hear from the police
137 department regarding speeding on Spring Street. Chief Ziegler will have the department
138 monitor the speed; it may need to be lowered to accommodate the street. Chief Ziegler

also noted that you would never get State approval for a four way stop sign. The question becomes what liability would be incurred if we put up the signs without State approval. Mayor Cherchi would like to try the speed humps and see if slows down the cars.

Letter from Fire Chief, re. Dispatching Procedures – Councilwoman would like assurance that everyone who dispatches understands the protocol for dispatching fires. Chief Ziegler reported when he received the memo refresher training was done regarding the dispatching procedures.

Pool Fence in Accordance with State statute – Councilman Ryan explained that Mr. Porrino would like to change the Ordinance to 4 feet in line with the State Statute. After a discussion, the Governing Body decided to keep the fence at ordinance at 6 feet.

Creating a “Rosery” in Leonia – Councilman Ryan explained the ideal behind the “rosery.” This large rose garden does not require a lot of maintenance.

Job Report on Retaining Wall Collapse on Fort Lee Road - Councilman LaBianco spoke regarding the retaining wall collapse. The Borough Administrator explained what transpired with the wall.

Disabled Veterans Deduction of Property Tax – Mayor Cherchi explained why he put this on the agenda. The resolution will be on for the meeting of August 1.

Fire Department Ordinance – Mayor Cherchi explained the proposed change to the Fire Department residency requirement. Councilwoman Heveran is going to have a meeting with the Fire Committee and the Fire Chief and Deputy Chief.

CORRESPONDENCE

Councilwoman Heveran brought to the attention of the Governing Body a letter from Women’s Right equality honoring women Police Officers. Did Chief Ziegler receive the letter? Chief Ziegler reported that he received and responded to the letter.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No one spoke.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Councilwoman Heveran to go into closed Session (Resolution M) seconded by Councilman Ryan. All in favor, none opposed.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 05-183 appointing Erik Goodell as Police Recruit – Councilman Puzzo, made a motion, seconded by councilman Ryan to approve Resolution 05-183. Roll call vote;

184 Councilpersons Dwarica, Heveran, LaBianco, Mitrani, Puzzo and Ryan voted yes.
185 Resolution 05-183 approved.
186
187 Resolution 05-184 promoting Scott Tamagny, Christopher Garris and Christopher Jones
188 to the rank of Sergeant – Councilman Puzzo, made a motion to appoint the
189 aforementioned Police Officers to the rank of Sergeant, seconded by Councilwoman
190 Mitrani. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Heveran, Mitrani, Puzzo and Ryan voted yes,
191 Councilpersons Dwarica and LaBianco voted no. Resolution 05-184 approved.
192
193 There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:06pm by
194 Councilperson Heveran seconded by Councilperson Ryan. All in favor none opposed
195 meeting adjourned.
196
197 Respectfully submitted,
198
199
200 Fran Lehmann
201 Borough Clerk